
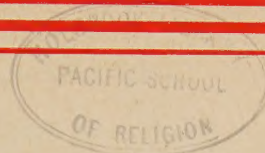


NOVEMBER 1948

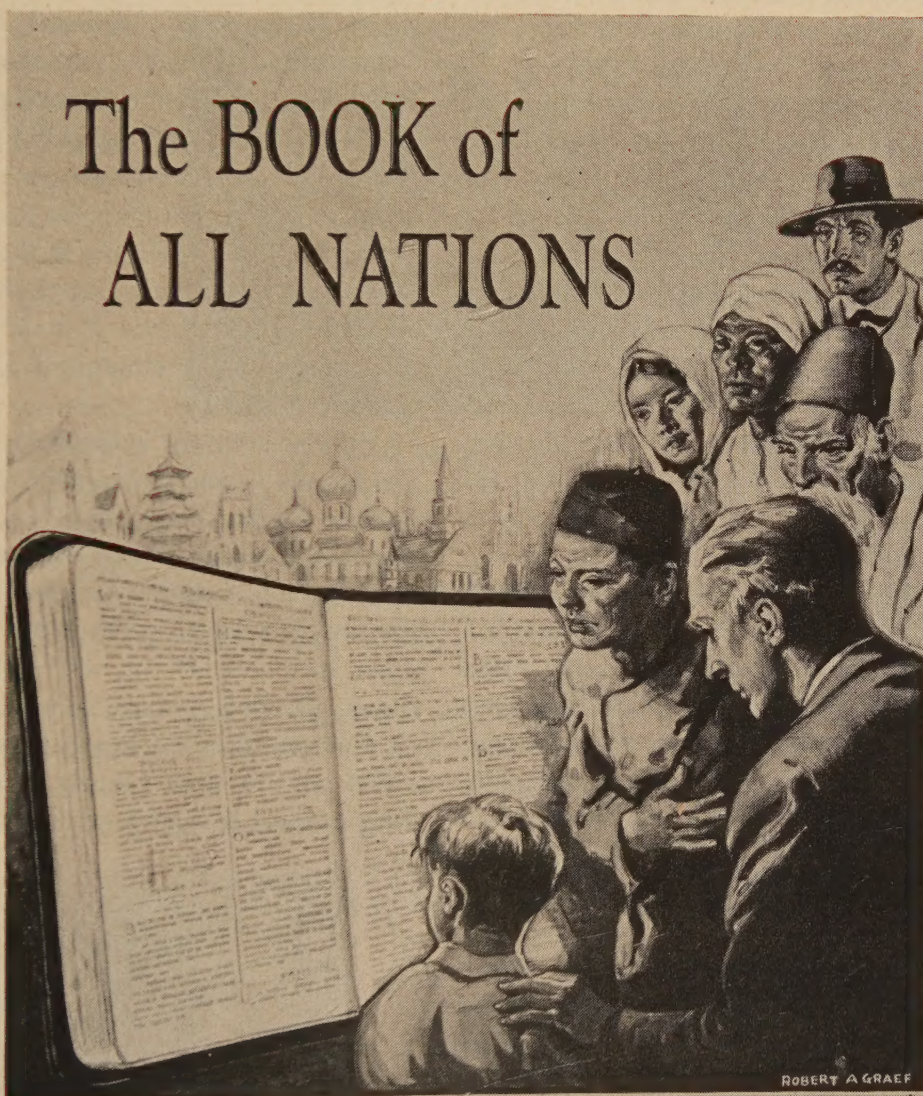
 BIBLE  
SOCIETY

# Record



**WANTED: 500,000 New Members**

The BOOK of  
ALL NATIONS



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

WORLDWIDE BIBLE READING  
*Thanksgiving to Christmas*



# "The Place Where the Kettle Boils"

*Which is the translation of the old Indian name "Canajohela," now called the Canadochly Church in York County, Pennsylvania. The old name still fits the spirit of the people there, as the following story amply attests*

BY ROME A. BETTS

LET me begin with the postscript of the letter that came to my desk in August. It read, "I did not have enough membership blanks, so I made two." The letter was from the chairman of the special committee of three village churches whose pastor had learned of the Society's "Bibles Now Program." It read:

"On March 9, 1948 you mailed me material for the American Bible Society's expansion program.

"It was a blessed privilege to present this cause to my neighbors and friends in my community, and the response exceeded my expectations, considering our small charge of three churches of about 500 members.

"I feel sure it was the guidance of the Holy Spirit that moved our good people to contribute to so worthy a cause.

"Enclosed find 38 applications for Active Membership at \$5 each and 4 Service Memberships at \$10 each, or a total of \$230. Check for same is herewith enclosed.

"Will you please mail them their membership cards and put them on the mailing list for the *Record*?"

The three charges constitute the Kreutz Creek Evangelical and Reformed Church, whose beginnings date back over two hundred years, when German settlers began to worship in the area. The name of the parish arises from the fact that it is located where two creeks united to form a cross, which the German people called "Kreutz."

Long life has meant no loss of vigor to these churches—Trinity, Canadochly and Locust Grove. To send forty membership blanks to such a parish was itself an act of faith, but they were not enough!

We suggest that you apply these figures to your own church. Then consider the world's present hunger for God's Word and the fact that our country through the American Bible Society must supply the major portion of that need, and that an active mem-

bership of \$5 will supply four to six Bibles or eight twenty-seven Testaments for one of these countries.

Here in America we dare not grow indifferent to this need. We must in a national sense continue to be "the place where the kettle boils." *Forty-two memberships from every parish of five hundred would meet the need.*

But—somebody must "tend the fire." In the Canadochly Church the committee chairman, to quote his later letter, said: "Although I did present the cause to all three churches and also saw some of my friends personally, I did not do it for the praise of men but for the glory and extension of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. . . . I was really the channel through which the Holy Spirit worked to touch the hearts of the good people of our community." There must be a "channel."

Will you keep the kettle boiling in your church? The Kreutz Creek parish, after all, sent in memberships for less than one tenth of its people. Where is the church in America in these days, which, with the sacrifice of one person on fire to see God's Word run and glorified, cannot keep the kettle boiling among fellow members? If you will write me at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y., I will see that you receive a supply of membership blanks.

Not only in York County, Pennsylvania, but over our great, free land, let us keep the kettle boiling.



*Just Another Church?—Read About It*



# Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE  
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 93 NOVEMBER • 1948 NUMBER 9

## A Bible House on Wheels

FOR over 130 years the American Bible Society has been looking for people who do not have the Bible. For many years the Society has been trying to tell all Americans about its far-reaching work.

To accomplish both of these missions requires, in some parts of America, determination and ingenuity. There are always new ways of reaching and meeting people.

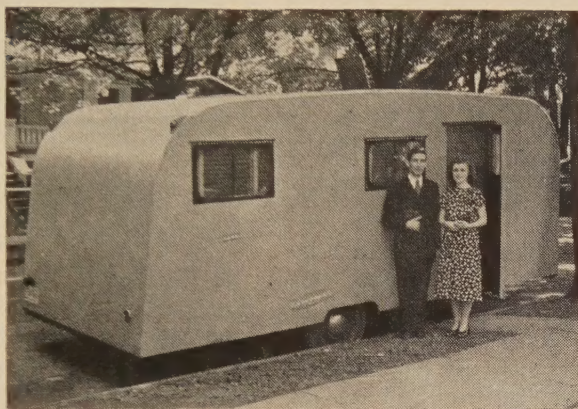
For example, there are highways and byways where the Bible and the story of the Bible Society ought to be going.

Then why can't we get a trailer and find a Christian young couple and set them to this task?

Exactly that was done this past summer. Down in Southeast Ohio, where the beautiful and famous river has formed a pocket of wooded hills and fertile valleys, just such a couple went with a trailer, Scriptures, leaflets describing the Society's work and the motion-picture films of the Society.

Donald and Martha Roush were married in June and began work for the Society in July. Secretary Cameron of the Central District provided them their trailer home and an outline of duties for the rest of the summer. Both had been doing graduate work in the College of the Bible at Dayton and both had had experience in Christian work.

With the cooperation of local ministers the Roushes have accomplished two main objectives:



*Donald and Martha Roush  
and their Trailer*

First, they have surveyed the Scripture needs of southeastern Ohio, going from house to house in the villages and from farm to farm in the open country. As a result, it can now be said that in that wide area all people either have Bibles or have been offered Scriptures. Individual Gospels have been left in many homes.

In the second place, this trailer, this "Bible House on Wheels," has enabled these representatives of the Bible Society to go to remote churches and distant ministers to tell about the world's need for the Scriptures. The film "The Book for the World of Tomorrow" was made the central feature of many presentations of the Society's work. Thus, at first hand, many old and new friends were able to see the Bible Society at work.

There are so many byways in America. The Bible must go there, and people like the Roushes will take it. A project like this involves planning and expense, but the work of the Bible Society will not be completed until the people who live along every highway and every byway have been brought to own and know this Book. For only as this is done will people be awakened to make it their concern that this same Bible be sent everywhere that men live—in city streets, along jungle trails, up mountain paths, and over dusty country roads like these in Southeast Ohio where the Bible House on wheels went this summer.



# Said Herbert Wing to Charles P. Taft

*How the Gospel of John is weaving a stout web of  
friendship between Twenty Thousand Children of  
Two Nations*

BY FRANK H. MANN

THE scene was the deck of the famed "Queen Elizabeth" as she lay at her berth in New York harbor one day last summer. Herbert Wing, a tiny six-year-old Chinese boy, was handing an equally tiny book to a smiling gentleman. Clustered about them was a group of children from Mariners' Temple in New York City, dressed in the costumes of five different nations.

"Mr. Taft," said little Herbert Wing, "When you get to Amsterdam, will you give the children there a present from the Sunday-school children of New York City? This is a copy of the Gospel of John in Dutch. It has my name in it and I want you to give it to some little boy just my size. Maybe his mother will help him write a letter to me about the Assembly you are going to. We all say 'Hello' to the children of Amsterdam."

Mr. Charles P. Taft was one of the company of Christian leaders from the United States who that day were sailing to attend the Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which met in Amsterdam in August.

"Thank you very much, Herbert Wing, for this Gospel," replied Mr. Taft. "I'll see that a boy just your age receives it. I'll be thinking about you, Herbert, and a lot of men and women my age will be thinking about the children your age, when we come together from forty countries all over the world. . . . We will do all in our power . . . to create a world free from war, intolerance and hunger, so that you and other children of your generation may all grow to your full height in body and mind and spirit."

Well, little Herbert Wing probably did not understand all that Mr. Taft said in his response, but Mr. Taft was also talking to a lot of us who would read the report of what he said that day.

The little Dutch Gospel of John was one of 10,000 copies published by the American Bible Society and sent by the 10,000 children of the Daily Vacation Bible Schools conducted last summer by the Protestant Council of the City of New York. The expense of the books was equally shared



*Mr. Taft presents the Gospels*

by the Society and the Protestant Council.

It was a truly international event. Other children from Mariners' Temple who participated in the presentation ceremonies were Philip Albanese, aged six, of Greek parentage; Margaret Longabucco, aged six, of Italian parentage; Merely Paula Flippin, aged five, of Negro parentage; and Anthony Matos, aged eight, of Spanish parentage.

Each of the ten thousand copies of John's Gospel had pasted in the front an insert in Dutch which, translated, reads as follows:

Dear Dutch Friend:

The leaders of our American Churches bring you this Gospel of St. John from me as they come to the first Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Amsterdam. We have heard about the Assembly at our Vacation Bible Schools here in New York and we are thinking about you and children everywhere, Christians from 148 denominations all over the world coming together in your city.

Each book was signed by one of the members of the many Daily Vacation Bible Schools held during the summer, and the signature was followed by the postscript:

After the Assembly won't you write and tell me about it?

Two weeks after Herbert Wing made his little presentation address to Mr. Taft on the deck of the *Queen Elizabeth*, a meeting was held in Oude Kerk, Amsterdam. A thousand Dutch youngsters were crowded into the pews. Presiding over the meeting was Dr. J. W. Kooten, chairman of the Netherlands Sunday School Union. This, too, was an international gathering. Hymns were sung by Dr. I. Isiotis of Greece and by Dr. John J. Wesley, a minister of the Church of South India. But the main feature of the meeting was the presentation of 1,000 of the 10,000 Dutch Gospels by Mr. Taft, all signed by little children of New York and all asking in the postscript for an answer.

Eventually all 10,000 of the Gospels were delivered to the children of Holland. Only God knows what blessings shall follow this program of genuine friendship between the children of two nations. But we all know that nothing but good can come from the reading of John's Gospel.



*Mr. Taft receives the Gospels*



# I Found Christ in the New Testament

*A personal recital of how the Scriptures bring transforming power, and release energies for the healing of the people*

BY CATHERINE ECONOMOS,

*as told to Petra Fakos*

WE were four days out toward New York on the *Queen Elizabeth*. The weather had been so bad that I was confined to my cabin. One clear day dawned and I went out on deck. It was still too windy to sit where my chair was located, so I had the steward move me closer to the wall. Next to where he placed me sat a gentleman who I noticed was reading the Bible and making notes on a slip of paper. With him was a lady also reading the Bible. My heart jumped with joy. God could not have put me in a better place.

"I am glad to see you reading the Bible. I am so interested in the Bible and love to read it," I made bold to say. In the next minute I found I was talking to Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Nida, who were just returning from a long stay in Africa (see article and map on page 104, *Bible Society Record* for September 1948), where they had been working with translators of the Bible in various primitive languages in behalf of the American Bible Society.

"How wonderful it must be to travel all over the world for the Bible," I said. "You are the luckiest people on earth. You must live in an earthly paradise."

When I told my new-found friends that I was coming to New York they invited me to visit the Bible House. I promptly did so, and it was there that I met Miss Petra Fakos, who asked me to tell her why it was that I was so thrilled to meet the Nidas on my trip to America.

My story, very briefly, is this: Born and raised in Athens, I was brought up in the Greek Orthodox Church. My parents were very good Chris-



*Mrs. Economos is greeted by Greece's Queen (left)*

tians. We went to church every Sunday and on all holy days. When I learned to read, my mother gave me a little book of hymns and prayers, but as I grew older I longed for something more. I loved religion and always wanted to be near Jesus Christ and work for Him. But He seemed so far away. All I knew in my religious life was going to church and reading my prayer

book, both wholly perfunctory.

At twenty I married and came to America. One day I saw on the street corner some Salvation Army people. They were singing a hymn and taking a collection for the poor. I thought, how happy I would be if I could join the Salvation Army! But that was just a dream. After a few years we returned to Greece because of my health. I became a chronic complainer. I was superstitious and felt that some catastrophe was about to befall me. When my beloved husband was a bit late returning home, I was sure some terrible fate had befallen him. I was miserable and made his life miserable.

In 1939 my husband came to America, leaving me in Greece. War was declared. I could no longer hear from my husband. My loneliness and misery were complete and devastating. I would run to church many times and kneel and pray. But nothing seemed to help. I was inconsolable.

Then on a rainy Sunday afternoon salvation came to my house; strictly speaking, it came to me at the house of my sister-in-law. She said to me, "Catherine, you like religion. Why not go downstairs to the apartment of Mrs. Chrisa Makricosta, where many lovely people meet regularly in what they call the Greek Orthodox Chris-



tian Corner." I went and was welcomed. There were people of all ages there. As I looked at them I said, "How happy these people look! Surely, they have no trouble in their lives."

Then the meeting opened. The leader stood up and read from a little book. It was the New Testament. She explained what she read very simply and impressively. She told us that Christ, Our Lord, was there among us. My happiness almost overwhelmed me. Tears came to my eyes, for I had always thought that Jesus was only in heaven. I said to myself, "I have at last found what I have always been longing for."

The next day Mrs. Makricosta gave me a copy of the New Testament. I was never so eager to read any book in my life. The more I read, the more precious things I discovered. I discovered that I am not alone in this world, as I had always supposed. I discovered that the Comforter is always at hand. I discovered how I can be my Heavenly Father's real child and love my neighbors as myself. I read the words of Jesus where he said, "If you love Me and don't love your neighbors, you are false." Before I read my Testament I thought I was a real Christian. Now I saw that I was not. I was happy in my new Christian growth, exultantly happy.

I asked Mrs. Makricosta to hold meetings in my home. At first five of my friends came. Then more and more, till eighty women crowded into my house.

Then came a day when the Germans forbade gatherings of any sort with more than three people in attendance. But I went right on with our Christian Corner in my home. There were not enough chairs, so we sat on boxes and cans. We were never molested. At the end of the readings my friends asked questions. They said my house was like heaven for them. One said, "You have saved my life."

Then the war ended. The Archaeological Society offered the Christian Corner their auditorium, seating five hundred, free of charge. We filled it every Wednesday afternoon. Then the University of Athens opened their great hall, seating eight hundred, for us on Sunday afternoons. It was always filled to overflowing.

As a result of all these blessings the living spirit of Jesus laid hold of our hearts in a new way. We began regular visits to the hospitals, to the leper camp, the sanitariums and many other places.

Young men and women from various parts of the city offered us their services for this blessed work.

At last I belonged to the "Salvation Army." My dream had come true. I decided I wanted



*Mrs. Economos and one of her hospital boys*

remain among these needy friends. I became volunteer nurse of the Red Cross; this was 1945. Times were difficult. There was very little food—almost no transportation. But I took my course and earned my diploma. Our beloved Queen Fredericka was there that day to give our diplomas personally.

I worked at the Army Hospital in Athens. All the patients were wounded soldiers of our civil war. It was a wonderful privilege to minister to these men for Jesus' sake.

Among others I met George Maipas. He came from a little mountain village in the part of Greece where the Communists rule. He was a man of true, deep religion. The people of his village, he said, were very ignorant. They never went to church. Then, with a smile George showed me his hand. "I was always a laborer with my hands, but now with this badly wounded arm I can no longer dig. With my small pension I am going back to my village to try to work for Jesus." I gave George some little Gospel portions I had with me, of Matthew and John, and promised to give him some more. I had the

*(Continued on page 8)*

NOVEMBER 1964



# How One Russian Testament Testified

*During the war the American Bible Society distributed 16,108 Russian Testaments among Russian prisoners of war held in Germany. The story of what happened to one copy is given here*

BY MARGARET T. HILLS

**N**EAR the Arctic circle, where the River Torneø forms the border between Sweden and Finland, there were gathered in a little wooden shack, late in October 1944, a group of refugees seeking escape from the Germans in Finland. Many of them were Russian prisoners who had been working in northern



*Its Pages a Sacred Record of Men who Used It*

land for the Germans, but the group included men from all over Asia and Europe. Here they stayed several weeks before being sent to internment or repatriation camps in southern Sweden. There was nothing to do but talk and sleep. There were no books or other reading matter in the hut.

But one young man had found a book—the New Testament and Psalms in Russian. To escape the ridicule of the other men in the hut he found a rock under a tree on a slope above the hut. There he would go to read and read. He was a peasant from White Russia, called into the army at twenty, soon taken prisoner by the Germans and sent by them to the Petro-Murmansk front. Brought up in ignorance of the Bible, he considered it a disgrace to be a believer. Furthermore, the young men in the hut were afraid to talk of such subjects in case they might be denounced by their comrades on return to their country. But what he read in this book fascinated him.

Among the members of this strange group was Mr. Lorelli, a Mohammedan and a dervish from the Caucasus, who had been living in exile in Finland for many years and who was now seeking safety in Sweden. One day he discovered the young Russian read-

ing his Testament. Although not a Christian, the dervish was a man of great learning who had studied the religions of the world and who loved the New Testament. On looking the book over, he found all the blank pages filled with writing in many hands, all in Russian. The Testament, printed in the United States by the American Bible Society, had been sent from Geneva to Petsamo for Russian prisoners in a German army camp. One of these prisoners had taken it with him when he made the hazardous flight to Sweden. It had given him courage and consolation, but he feared to take it with him into the camp for Soviet prisoners further south, so he left it in the hut, where it had fallen into many hands before this young Russian found it. The notes on the pages of the Testament give the names of men who had reached the hut in safety and of others who had been drowned in the river or recaptured, and requests that someone finding the notes inform the boys' parents. But what gave the dervish the greatest pleasure was finding the stamp of the office of the Ecumenical Commission in Geneva, with its street address; for he had studied theology there years before and for a time had lived on the same street.

To the older man the young Russian unburdened his soul. "Something inside me tells me all the time that there must be an order in nature, a universal power controlling the universe as a whole; there must be a purpose in the creation of the world and man. . . . It is more difficult to live without religion and without God than it is to believe." One day the Russian asked the dervish why the Testament was bound "in mourning." "Wouldn't it have been better to put a bright cover on the book which is meant to bring consolation to men in their days of difficulty?"

The young man kept the book with him during the rest of his stay at the shack, sleeping with it under his pillow; but when he left he dared not take it with him. It remained in the hut, where it continued to circulate among Slav refugees until the fighting in Finland ceased and there was no longer need for the hut. Then the dervish sent the little Testament to Geneva so that the Commission would know how at least one of its books had been used; and the Geneva office sent it to the American Bible Society, where it will remain to tell its story for many years—one of thousands of similar books that have brought consolation and guidance to men and women in distress and perplexity.



# WORLDWIDE

## Thanksgiving

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.—II Timothy 3:16,17.



## Use It or Lose It

Your Bible is of worth according to the amount you use it. You lose its inspiration and the value of its helpful guidance if you do not allow its message to enter your life by regular, planned reading. One must use it right along, or else he will miss its needful vitality for daily living.

The Bible says of itself that its inspiration is of God. Jesus is the test and standard, the Word made flesh, the greatest inspiration of God revealed in the written Word.



*Conob Indians in Guatemala delight to read their own Scriptures*

The verse quoted above says it "is profitable for doctrine," which means that it is valuable and effective for teaching. In it is divine truth, both timeless and timely. It is the Book of Life.

It is "for reproof," that is, it is the gauge or test for judging ourselves and for judgment of social conditions. No other book so jars a person out of moral inertia.

It is "for correction." Man is not content to be in sin. The Bible tells us how to "put on the new man" and shows that we do not achieve Christian humility without being humbled before God and completely surrendered to Him.

And Scripture is "for instruction in righteousness," whereby we advance and grow ("first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear," Mark 4:28), until the goodness and fullness of our Heavenly Father is ours.

Participation in Worldwide Bible Reading will help you, your friends, your church. It will impart added vigor to the ongoing program of the church, its classes, its societies and the lives of its members. There is no substitute for Bible reading personally. Bible reading in the home, Bible reading in the church. Use it or lose it—starting with you!



# BIBLE READING

## Christmas

### WE AFFIRM

That the Bible occupies the place of central importance in the nurture of Christians.

That the revelation of God recorded in Holy Scripture is the channel by which Christians find their faith.

That the Bible is the standard by which we test the church.

That the effective presentation of the Christian good news is by means of the Bible.

That the Scriptures are the channel through which we find the way to commit ourselves to the Savior of men.

That educational work conducted in the church should increase Bible reading in the home.

That Christian parents have primary responsibility for guiding their families into familiarity with and fondness for the Bible.

That the Scriptures provide the pattern for testing spiritual authority.

That the Word of God has been the guarantee of light, guidance and redemption in Jesus Christ.

That tradition can never be placed on an equal footing with the Bible.

That the Bible is the anchor to keep from drifting away from Jesus Christ.



The best book to read is  
the Bible,  
No other can stand in  
its place,  
Transcendent above all  
writings,  
Inspired by God's  
Spirit and grace.

It shines as a light on  
life's journey,  
It meets every trial and  
need,  
A comfort and solace in  
sorrow,  
A storehouse of wisdom  
indeed.



*Cut here and fold in center*

### "The Book of All Nations"

*These Bible selections bring out helpful truths concerning the theme.*

#### NOVEMBER

Day	Book	Chapter
25 Thanksgiving	Psalms	103
26	Psalms	90
27	Psalms	91
28 Sunday	Psalms	23
29	Ephesians	6
30	Philippians	4

#### DECEMBER

Day	Book	Chapter
1	John	17
2	Revelation	21
3	Psalms	121
4	Psalms	27
5 Sunday	Acts	17
6	John	15
7	Hebrews	11
8	Romans	12
9	John	3
10	Romans	8
11	John	14
12 Bible Sunday	Matthew	13
13	Luke	14
14	Luke	15
15	Luke	16
16	I Corinthians	13
17	Isaiah	55
18	John	1
19 Sunday	Mark	4
20	Matthew	5
21	Matthew	6
22	Matthew	7
23	Isaiah	2:1-5; 9:1-7
24	Isaiah	11:1-9; 40:1-11
25 Christmas Day	Matthew	2

*If you want to follow a list of daily readings for 1949, ask your minister, write to your denominational headquarters, or request copies from*

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, DEPT. U  
450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

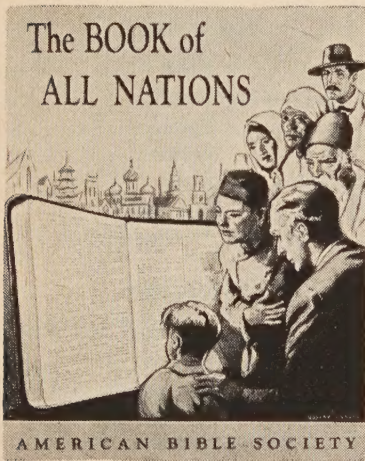


# Bible Reading in City and Country

*How Worldwide Bible Reading succeeded in a Metropolitan Center and a Sparsely Populated County. With devoted leadership it will succeed anywhere*

BY G. BRUCE CAMERON

## WORLDWIDE *Bible Reading*



### THANKSGIVING TO CHRISTMAS 1948

#### How to Find Help From Bible Reading

- 1—Read slowly and prayerfully. "Not snapshots but time exposures" should be the rule.
- 2—Read keenly and thoughtfully. Imagine the scenes.
- 3—Read obediently. Search for the personal message each day's passage has for YOU.
- 4—Your inner response to God's message is vital. When He condemns, bow penitently; when He offers help, place your hope on that assurance; when He guides, follow.
- 5—Underline passages which strike fire. Copy them and repeat them aloud.
- 6—Memorize one key verse daily.
- 7—Set aside and keep a definite daily time for reading.
- 8—Make it a habit; enter the New Year as a daily reader of the Bible.

For additional free copies of this leaflet, or to send contributions to further this program of reading, write to

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, DEPT. U  
450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

THOUSANDS of communities have volunteer organizations for the promotion of Worldwide Bible Reading. In the Central District two places may be cited as examples of how the program can produce effective results. They are vastly different in type—Cincinnati, Ohio, with all the problems of a city of a half million population; and Jackson, Kentucky, with the very different problems that plague small neighborhoods.

In Cincinnati the Board of Education authorized and assisted in the distribution of 40,000 bookmark reading lists in the public schools, and ordered a poster put on each school bulletin board. The public library ran a window display of old Bibles as well as Bible Society material, including posters and bookmarks.

A letter was mailed to a list of 1,000 doctors and dentists in Cincinnati and another letter to 10,000 industries, banks, hospitals and schools, offering the reading lists. Manufacturing plants were sent a personal letter. Those which publish house organs or magazines were requested to include the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas Scripture selections in their November issue.

An outstanding feature in establishing contact was the "phoning campaign." This reached schools and churches from which no request for materials had been received. Women with a few hours a day at their disposal would telephone a group of names supplied them by the Bible Society Office, and the persons thus reached almost invariably ordered bookmarks and posters.

It was possible to arrange a wide variety of window displays. The rotunda of a downtown bank furnished the setting for an elaborate presentation. There were other displays in the windows of department stores, a broadcasting studio and several office buildings. The son of one of the city's bankers became so interested that he placed fifteen posters in store windows in the area of his home.

An unusual amount of newspaper publicity and radio presentation, including a television broadcast, was secured in Cincinnati, largely because arrangements were made early. The Council of Churches, which arranges local radio services, saw to it that all the ministers used Bible Sunday material that day.

It must be done differently out in the country. One of the best examples of a volunteer organization covering a county comes from a young lady in Jackson, Kentucky, a small county seat of perhaps 2,000 population in the heart of the hills. She made a way for the bookmarks to get into the hands of teachers, sent out hundreds in letters, supplied the list to offices and waiting rooms and saw to it that the reading references were printed in the newspapers. Her plan is described in the following letter:

Dear Sir:

I acknowledged the 10,000 Bible Reading bookmarks you sent to me early in November to be distributed in Jackson and surrounding communities. Now I wish to tell you of the blessing they proved to be to so many.

School teachers from five rural schools wrote and asked me for a specified number to give to their pupils and to distribute in other ways. One missionary wrote for at least 500, or 1,000 if I could spare so many. She was and is now going into the school of Campton, Ky., which is a consolidated school where children from a large area attend. She gave

*(Continued on page 140)*

NOVEMBER 1948



# The Gospel Crosses the Arctic Circle

*New light will shine in the long night this winter for the Eskimos of the Point Barrow region as for the first time they read and study the Gospel of Mark in their own tongue*

BY MARGARET T. HILLS

HE HAD never seen a tree until he was forty-eight, nor a camel, nor running fresh water, nor a city or even a large town. But now he has translated the Gospel of Mark and the Epistle to the Romans for his own people, most of whom, like himself, will probably never see some of these objects that are commonplace in the lives of most men.

"He" is Roy Ahmaogak, a Christian son of Christian parents, at Point Barrow, 300 miles above the Arctic Circle, on the very northern point of Alaska. For years he has served as a teacher in the local schools, for his own eighth-grade education was supplemented by a course of reading under a missionary's direction. For years also, he served as aid and interpreter to missionaries and preachers, and more recently as lay leader of a congregation in Wainwright. He has also lived as a trapper and hunter, married a school teacher and is the father of eleven children and now has two grandchildren. He had had years of experience in putting into his own language for his people the word-of-mouth messages of the English-speaking preachers and missionaries. But there was no Bible or any part of it for the Christian community of twelve hundred people, of whom seven hundred were church members and about eight hundred of whom could read.

In 1946 Mr. Ahmaogak was elected by the Yukon Presbytery the elder commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and arrangements were made for him to spend a year "out" in special study and language work. Imagine the new experiences for such a man! Although he had read much and seen many pictures, all the activities and life of large towns and the countryside south of the Arctic Circle were new, fascinating and also highly confusing! In quick succession there came the meetings of the General Assembly at Atlantic City; visits with a retired but long-loved missionary in his home in Indiana; July and August at the Summer Institute of Linguistics at Norman, Oklahoma, where Dr. Eugene Nida and John McIntosh helped him get his language into written form, prepare a primer and begin on a translation of the Scriptures. The primer was planned not only to help his people learn to read their own language, but to familiarize them with some of the terms and objects to be met with in the Bible, so many of which had no place in their daily lives. Then came the fall, winter and spring in New Jersey, where he studied at Bloomfield Seminary.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



*Translator Ahmaogak confers with Dr. Nida at the Bible House*

There were visits to the zoo to see camels, lions and sheep; and trips to the Bible House to consult with Dr. Nida on the translation. When summer came again, the translation was finished and Mr. Ahmaogak returned to Alaska, where on June 3, 1947 he was ordained by the Yukon Presbytery—the second of his people to so become a church official. The day after his return he hitched up his dog sled and went for a long trip out onto the ice, glad to be back where all was so quiet and peaceful. But civilization has caught up with even the northern coast of Alaska. Oil has been discovered, and the new minister and his church realized that they must face the challenge which an invading civilization would bring. To meet this challenge they needed a Book.

The Eskimo dialects into which the Scriptures have been translated differ so greatly from that used by the 3,000 people living in Point Barrow and the region stretching for 500 miles east and west of it, that they cannot be used by these people, who call their language the Inupiat dialect. There are, however, family characteristics among all the dialects. There are prefixes and suffixes, and words which form com-



binations that must be kept together. Some languages have a variety of vowels. Barrow Eskimo seems to have more problems in the use of consonants. There are three "n" sounds, four "l's," two "k's" and two "g's," but there are lacking the sounds of "r" and a number of other consonants common in English. For instance, St. Mark is "Maagum." Some of these strange sounds appear in the following example, which is reproduced by photography from Mark 1:6.

6 Tavza Zaan annugaakagniksuk pikuktu-  
zuam nigzutim mitkunijnik, sulitapsikak-  
luni amiviniigmik; sulinigizagniksuk nut-  
tagayugnik igucaillu pamiksaagunitcuat  
nikautiniijnik;

*Mark 1:6 in the Eskimo text*

There are also problems in expressing unfamiliar objects in terms the Eskimos can visualize without constant use of a Bible dictionary (which very few would have), so a literal translation of Mark 1:6 into English would read:

And John was clothed bighumpanimal hair and hadabelton a pieceofskin and dideat insectsthatjump and beesnottamed that-whichbeeseat.

Although the translation was completed in the spring of 1947, type difficulties held up its printing until this year. In July 1,000 copies of St. Mark were shipped to Alaska. It is to be hoped they arrive before the winter. Last winter the Eskimos had been supplied with their primer provided by the Presbyterian Board of National Missions. In March they were asking Mr. Ahmoagak, "When are we going to get the translations of the Bible?" and "Be sure to save me a copy when the books come in case I am out of the village." He wrote: "Our people here have enjoyed learning how to read and write the Eskimo language from the Eskimo primer, and words fail me to express my thanks to Dr. Nida for the help and encouragement he gave me in preparing it for our people." Both Eskimos and whites have been using the primer. Now, during the long dark days of this winter they will have the Gospel to tell them in their own language, translated by one of their own folks, clearly and thrillingly the story often only half understood before. The Epistle to the Romans is now being printed and perhaps it, too, will reach Point Barrow before transportation, except by air, is cut off for the winter; for it will help the church community to comprehend more fully the wonders of salvation.

## Bible Reading in City and Country

*(Continued from page 138)*

them each two—one to keep at school and one to take home for the parents. She also gave some to the ones who attend the church and Sunday school in the rural community where she works; also sent out some in personal letters.

I distributed over 1,000 in letters to 565 of my Bible readers, two to each letter, asking them to give one to a neighbor and keep one for themselves. I enclosed a large number in personal letters to friends, to enclose in their outgoing letters.

Another way I distributed some was to give them to 600 to 700 school children that I met in the grade schools (and one high school) where I had Bible classes each week or which I visited for the Bible reading. I also gave them two each, asking them to give one to their parents or to neighbors.

I told you of my three tract boxes. One of each was placed in bus and train depots and in the bank. I made small containers from plastic shelf paper and placed one in the waiting room of the dentist's office, one in the hotel, one in the court house and one in the Hall, where there are several offices, including the telephone office, Red Cross office and others. All of these were kept supplied with the bookmarks.

I also had the Bible references printed in three county papers, whose editors printed them as they did the church announcements. In this way they went into a large number of homes that I could not have reached, even indirectly, as I did through enclosing them in letters. I thank God for the cooperation of others who made all this possible. May He continue to bless the work of the Bible Society and supply the large amount needed in the many ways that you have need of it, is my sincere prayer.

## I Found Christ in the New Testament

*(Continued from page 134)*

speakable privilege of distributing the blessed Scriptures to many who needed them. Although my husband had died and my life, from an earthly viewpoint, was sadly emptied, it is full; nothing can ever empty it, for I have found Jesus in my Bible and have led others to find Him there.

Now do you wonder that I was elated to have the steward—and the hand of God, too—put my deck chair down beside Dr. and Mrs. Nida?

## A New Assistant Secretary



*Mr. Collyer*

Rev. Paul A. Collyer has been appointed Assistant Secretary of the American Bible Society for work in the Society's program of Foreign Distribution. He began his duties November 1. They consist of assisting Secretary North in the ever-growing administrative work, including both correspondence and travel, connected with the Society's Foreign Agencies and also the relationship with other national Bible Societies.

Mr. Collyer is a native of New York State and is a Baptist. He is a graduate of Denison University and Colgate-Rochester Divinity School. In 1940 he went to China as a missionary and was engaged in language study there when the war engulfed him and his family. Their effort to reach home was thwarted in the Philippines, where they spent many months in internment. Mr. Collyer's anticipated return to the field was prevented by health conditions in his family. He brings to the Society's expanding work overseas a devotion to foreign service for his Lord, which is his consuming interest.



# MEMBERS' FORUM

[Annual Membership in the Society is secured through a gift of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. The Society also provides for Life Membership, Life Directorship and Memorial Membership. Particulars will be sent on request. The editors welcome correspondence from members and devote this page in each issue to that purpose.]

## From Minneapolis, Minn.:

For the printing of Bibles where most needed, I am sending a check for \$12. A cousin of mine in Stockholm, Sweden writes to my son that a generation of young people is growing up in Germany without the Bible. In a confirmation class of a hundred children there was only one Bible, which the minister had borrowed from the grandmother of one of the children.

## From Washington, D. C.:

There are so many calls from every direction that it is hard to decide what is most important. I have been trying for several days to divide up my little tithe, and when the *Record* came today I couldn't think of anything more important than giving the Bible to those who need and want it so much. I had a little good luck last week and am so glad to be able to give my little mite. At the age of eighty-one there is not much that I can do, but it may be, this money may save some souls. I send it in Jesus' name and for His sake.

## From Ironton, Ohio:

Please use this dollar for whatever you think best. It is a tithe from some beans my fourteen-year-old son raised and sold.

## From Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts to the Massachusetts Bible Society:

I wish I could give more to the Bible Society's work, for I am more and more thrilled as I read of it in the *Record*; and even more especially since I heard Dr. Singiser speak at our First Methodist Church in Jamaica Plain last month.

I think I shall pass the *Record* around more thoroughly here in our "Mount Pleasant Home," that others may read, too, of the marvelous work being done. (The Massachusetts Bible Society and the American Bible Society work jointly in the State of Massachusetts.—Ed.)

## From Chicago, Illinois:

A friend gave us the January issue of the Bible Society *Record*. Its contents inspired us to want to help in the wonderful work the Society is doing. Please find enclosed check for \$10 to be used where most needed.

## From Flandreau, South Dakota:

I have received the *Bible Society Record*—my third one, and I enjoy reading about the work that is being done to distribute Bibles to the rest of the world. I lend my copies to friends. May God continue to bless this work!

I am a widow of seventy-six years, making my own living. I enjoy giving. At Christmas time I send some money to my favorite projects. This year I am not waiting for that time to send. Enclosed find my check.

## From a Chaplain in a V.A. Hospital:

The Bibles, Testaments and portions of Scripture were most wonderful help to myself, but above all to these patients confined with T.B. conditions. Wards just cannot give each man good light. Eye strain is therefore common, and the expressions of joy at such books as you sent just cannot be described. One woman patient who had no Bible but wanted one, said upon receiving it: "I want to tell them how thankful I am for this gift," and she will send her thanks to you, without doubt.

Some have joined the Church through the use of the Word. Christ has been accepted as Lord by numbers, and the work is just beyond our ability to comprehend as to its future results. Thanks from these men, and also much gratitude from myself for being able to give them Word of the Living God.

## From Tuscaloosa, Alabama:

A few years ago I received a Bible from you which I suppose was paid for by a relative who lives in Atlanta, to whom I wrote for the same.

I received your communication concerning your campaign to send more Bibles to foreign lands.

However glad I might be to contribute to this cause, I am not able to do so, because I am a patient in the State Hospital here and have been for many years. I possess very little wealth, nothing in my immediate hands except a few cards and a one-cent stamp, which I am enclosing.

I thought it best to write and let you know my situation.

I hope and pray that the Lord Himself will give aid to good works everywhere.

## From Londonderry, New Hampshire:

I am late in sending in my contribution. My business has been so slow, and so little is made in it now with such high prices . . . I began to feel I was not going to have any to spare this year, but our dear Heavenly Father has taken care of me ever since my husband died, and I have been able to remain in my home, keep clear of debt and give what I can to some who do His good work. I will soon be eighty-two years old and am still earning my living, with His help.

I am very glad to be able to send this check for \$25 for I am very much interested in all your good work.



# EDITORIAL COMMENT

## Bible Society Record

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures*

**Editors: THE SECRETARIES**

*Address correspondence to the*

*Managing Editor*

**FRANCIS CARR STIFLER**

*450 Park Avenue*

*New York 22, N. Y.*



Vol. 93 NOVEMBER 1948 No. 9

### Daily Bible Readings

#### NOVEMBER

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Proverbs	14	17	Exodus	20:1-17
2	Proverbs	15	18	James	1
3	Proverbs	16	19	Galatians	6
4	Proverbs	17:1-18:18	20	Revelation	22
5	Proverbs	18:19-19:29	21	1 Corinthians	15
6	Proverbs	20	22	Psalms	37
7	Proverbs	21	23	Psalms	51
8	Proverbs	22	24	John	10
9	Proverbs	23	25	Thanksgiving	
10	Proverbs	24		Psalms	103
11	Proverbs	25	26	Psalms	90
12	Proverbs	26:1-27:10	27	Psalms	91
13	Proverbs	27:11-28:28	28	Psalms	23
14	Proverbs	29:1-30:9	29	Ephesians	6
15	Proverbs	30:10-31:31	30	Philippians	4
16	Joshua	1			

### September Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-third year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, September 2, 1948, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. John Binns.

The death of Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes was reported and the following Memorial Minute was adopted:

In the death of Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes on August 27, 1948 the American Bible Society has lost one of its most illustrious members. Always devoted to the Bible, Mr. Hughes, who was a Vice President of the Society from 1915 till his death, took as

active an interest in the Society's work as could be expected from one whose important duties as jurist, statesman and public servant extraordinary, would permit.

As long as men strive for freedom through the operation of democratic processes they will be debtors to the wisdom, faith and vigorous leadership of Charles Evans Hughes and other such fearless leaders before him who have found in the Bible the source of their strength.

The Board and Officers of the American Bible Society extend to Mr. Hughes' son and daughters their sincere and profound sympathy and share with them not only the deep sense of

loss, but also the abiding glow of memory of the great deeds greatly done by one who loved God and His Word.

Dr. H. R. Bowler and Rev. Harry Spencer were elected members of the Board of Managers.

The new Worldwide Bible Reading Poster for 1948 was presented.

There were presented first-edition copies of the Gospels of Mark, Luke and John in Spanish Braille for the Blind.

Mr. Culver H. Nelson was appointed Associate Field Secretary in Southern California.

## Do Your Shopping Early and Thoughtfully!

A friend of the Society has made a Christmas suggestion which we pass on to our readers. She writes her friends:

Dear Friend: Many people start their Christmas shopping early and you may be planning to do the same thing, so I am writing to make a suggestion to you.

Every year you and I exchange gifts costing a dollar or more. I think it is a lovely custom to remember your friends, but there are so many real needs, and you and I do not really need anything we cannot buy for ourselves. So

**If you had no Bible and wanted one, could you think of a more welcome Christmas present? Here is a way to send Bibles as Christmas gifts to people who want them most**

I am asking you to agree with me that we will each send a check to the American Bible Society as our gift to each other. We are both anxious to see the Word of God in the hands and hearts of people throughout the whole world. I am sure that we will both find much more joy in this gift than in some material gift sent each other. In the future I would appreciate this gift more than any other.

The Society thinks so well of this idea and is so confident that thousands will want to follow the suggestion, that it has provided a simple card in Christmas colors which reads:

We have received today from:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

a gift for the distribution of the Scriptures to a needy world. The gift is sent as a token of love and Christmas greeting to you.

Surely every reader has one Christian friend—or maybe ten!—who would rejoice in receiving and reciprocating in the exchange of such a Christmas gift. Will you not try it this year?



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New York City 22—Bible House, 450 Park Avenue.....New York, New Jersey, Penna., Del., Maryland, D. C., Virginia, W. Va.  
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## "It's Brought a New Spirit Into Our Home"

That's what one fifteen-year-old German lad said about a Bible which had been given him and which he introduced into his family's life.

An overseas pastor wrote recently:

"I wish I had more Bibles and I wish some of our American benefactors could be present at our meetings to share the great joy which is created again and again just by one single New Testament. After service or Bible lesson I usually leave one copy with one of them and when I return after a week or two I ask what they did with the New Testament. It usually turns out that one of the refugees took the matter into his hands and formed a little Bible class of his own. That is the true community spirit and from these cells Christian revival starts among the homeless but no longer hopeless."

So God's Word continues to speak directly to human hearts today as it always has to men of all tongues and races.

The trouble is, there aren't sufficient copies of it to speak often enough!



If anybody in your own town were to ask you for a Bible, you'd give it to him readily.

By becoming a member of the American Bible Society you are actually answering that kind of request—just as if it were made to you personally.

Memberships are from five dollars to one hundred dollars. Won't you give as you are able, checking the membership you want? Then mail the coupon below, properly filled out.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY (Membership Department)  
450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

Please enroll me as an Active (\$5)....., Service (\$10)....., Sustaining (\$25).....,  
Family (\$50)....., National Women's Club (\$50)....., Ten Thousand Business Men's  
Club (\$100)..... My check is attached.

I enlist as a worker to secure additional members for the Society. You may send me  
.....sets of materials (membership application blanks, leaflet "The Meaning of Member-  
ship" and a leaflet describing the needs).

☐ My church will make a gift to the American Bible Society in 1948.

Name.....

Address.....

City..... State.....